

ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File

OAIRA, Rome, Italy

IR-237-55

1. Members of this office have noted an intensive and increasing effort on the part of Russian Service Attaches in Rome to appear friendly and make personal contacts, apparently without bias. It would seem that they have been allowed more personal liberties and freedom of movement in carrying on their official and social functions. Recent examples are:

a. Colonel Cassady was recently personally invited by Col Boris NIKITIN, Russian Army attache, to be his guest in Moscow. The invitation was made during a discussion of the Italian Armed Forces Review prior to a dinner for all the Foreign Attaches on 1 June. Col NIKITIN is returning to Russia soon and during the dinner he made a farewell speech in which he invited all the foreign attaches "including the United States, Britain, France, and all the others" to visit Russia. Many of the attaches were surprised at the political implications contained in an extemporaneous and informal speech of this sort. Following this dinner NIKITIN repeated his invitation to Col Cassady, and it appeared to be genuinely meant.

b. Lt Col Boris KHROMIN, Russian Air Attache, who usually appears at all occasions without his wife, stated to Col Cassady that his wife and baby were now "better" and invited Col and Mrs. Cassady for dinner. KHROMIN indicated that his wife speaks English. It is believed that KHROMIN also speaks and/or understands English, although he never indicates that he does.

c. Lt Col Alexandre PREDVETCHNOV, Assistant Russian Naval Attache, during conversation with Maj McCormack at the attache dinner of 1 June, indicated his desire and interest to visit the United States. When it was suggested that it would be better for world understanding if there were more uncontrolled visits and free movement of people between different countries, he agreed and said he would like to see it that way.